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INOVATION SURVEY

Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure
(ESMS)
INSTAT

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Metadata Referenciale

1. Contact	
1.1. Contact organisation	Institute of Statistics, INSTAT
1.2. Contact organisation unit	Sector of Research and Development, Innovation, Information Technology and Transport Statistics. Directory of Economic Statistics
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2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	27.06.2024
2.2. Metadata last posted	27.06.2024
2.3. Metadata last update	27.06.2024
3. Statistical presentation	
3.1. Data description	Statistical survey on Innovation activity is conducted once every two years and the observation period covered is a three-year period, 2020-2022. The survey provides comparable information on product innovations and business processes presented by enterprises in Albania.
3.2. Classification system	The classifications used in Innovation Activity statistics are: • Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev. 2); • Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics, (NUTS). Data are produced at the country level, detailed by economic activity grouped at the section level of NACE Rev.2 and by enterprise size.

3.3. Sector coverage	The observations units are all enterprises of the non-financial and financial sector with 10 or more employees mainly engaged in the following Sections and divisions of NACE Rev.2: • (B) Mining Industry; • (C) Manufacturing; • (D) Electricity, gas steam and air conditioning supply; • (E) Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities; • (G46) Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles; • (H) Transportation and storage; • (J) Information and communication; • (K) Financial and insurance activities; • (M71-73) Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis. Research and development, Publicity and market research.
3.4. Statistical concepts and definitons	An **innovation** is a new or improved product or process (or a combination of both) that differs significantly from the unit's previous products or processes and has been made available to potential users (product) or brought into use by the unit (process). **Innovation activity** includes all developmental, financial and commercial activities undertaken by the enterprise that are intended to result in innovations. A **product innovation** is the implementation of a good or service that is new or significantly improved and differs substantially from the enterprise's previous goods or services. A **business process innovation** is a new or improved business process for one or more business functions that differs significantly from the enterprise's previous business processes and that has been implemented within the firm. Business process innovations include new or improved methods for: • Producing goods or providing services; • Logistics, delivery or distribution; • Information and communication systems; • Administration and management; • Product and business process development. **Cooperation in Innovation activity** is the active participation of enterprises or other organizations. Partners do not need to benefit economically. Pure contracting is excluded if there is no active cooperation. An **innovation-active enterprise** is an enterprise engaged at any time during the observation period in one or more activities to develop or introduce new or improved products or business processes for intended use.

	Public authorities: Includes local or regional authorities, national government (including central government agencies or ministries), EU Horizon 2020 Programme for Research and Innovation and any other financial support from a European Union institution. Public financial support includes financial support through grants, subsidized loans and loan guarantees. Funding of activities under contract from the public sector is excluded.
3.5. Statistical unit	The targeted and observed statistical unit is the enterprise with over 10 employees.
3.6. Statistical population	The statistics comprise all active enterprises in Albania of all legal forms. The population consist of all enterprises that, according to statistical business register were active in December of the reference year in economic activities covered by Innovation statistics excluding: • Local units; • Enterprises with the main activity code (NACE rev.2) that are out of scope of Innovation activity survey; • Enterprises with less than 10 employees.
3.7. Reference area	The data on Innovation activity Survey comprise all territory of Albania for non-financial and financial enterprises.
3.8. Time coverage	The data are published for the first time in 2020 for the reference period 2017-2019.
3.9. Base period	Not applicable.
4. Unit of measure	Data on Innovation survey for the main indicators are published only in percentage. The main indicators are as follows: • Percentage of Innovation active enterprises; • Percentage of enterprises that have introduced product / process business innovations; • Percentage of innovation active enterprises that carried any type of cooperation; • Percentage of turnover of innovation-active enterprises; • Percentage of persons employed in innovation-active enterprises; • Percentage of non-innovation active enterprises; Percentage of enterprises active in innovation that received financial support from public authorities.
5. Reference period	The reference period of statistical information on the Innovation survey is the three-year period 2020-2022. This report belongs to the reference year 2022.

6. Institutional mandate	
6.1. Legal acts and other agreements	The legal basis on National Level consist on: • Law No.17/2018, "On Official Statistics"; • National Official Statistics Program 2022-2026. The relevant legal basis at the European level consists of: • Commission regulations (EC): Decision No 1608/2003/EC of The European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003 concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology; • Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1092 of 30 June 2022; • Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 995/2012 of 26 October 2012 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Decision No 1608/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology Oslo Manual 2018, 4th Edition.
6.2. Data sharing	Statistics on Innovation in the enterprise are transmitted to Eurostat.
7. Confidentiality	
7.1. Confidentiality - policy	The data collected are considered as strictly confidential and used only for statistical purposes and scientific research in accordance with the national Statistical Law No. 17/2018 "On official statistics" date 10.3.2018, and Law No. 9887, dated 10.03.2008, "Personal Data Protection". Article 31 of the Law No. 17/2018 "On official statistics" clearly define that all statistical information collected by INSTAT are confidential and may only be used or published in such summary tables that do not identify the information of the unit. The direct identification is called when a statistical unit is directly identified by the name, address or any officially recognized identification number. When data processing is performed in such a way as to enable the data subject to be identified, the data must be coded immediately so that the entities are no longer recognized.
7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment	Albanian Institute of Statistics protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units. Albania Institute of Statistics takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by Albania Institute of Statistics if and only if: a) The data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation, in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or;

	b) The statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data. The confidential data that are transmitted to Albania Institute of Statistics are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task. Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the staff working in Albania Institute of Statistics. The responsibilities of this staff are to recommend on: which detailed level the statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible; the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users; the access granting to researchers on confidential data for scientific purposes.
8. Release policy	
8.1. Release calendar	Notifications about the dissemination of statistics are published in the release calendar, which is available on the website. The announcements and delays are preannounced in this calendar. In the case of delays, the date of the next publication and the explanation of the reasons for the delays are specified.
8.2. Release calendar access	The calendar of publications is available on INSTAT website.
8.3. User access	In accordance with article 34 of Law No. 17/2018 "On official statistics", official statistics are disseminated so that all users have an immediate and equal right and all possible forms of media are used. INSTAT and statistical agencies, having in the program the responsibilities of dissemination, seek to meet every requirement of any organization or individual for unpublished data or specific analysis. The following dissemination channels are used to release the results: 1. Press Release; 2. Written requests; 3. Data request, section available for external users; 4. Albania in Figures.
9. Frequency of dissemination	Results on Innovation Survey are published every two year.
10. Accessibility and clarity	
10.1. News release	The press release contains information about the main indicators of Innovation statistics in the enterprise like percentage of: enterprises active in innovation, enterprises that have introduced product/business process innovations, innovative enterprises that have cooperated, etc. The format of press release is defined by publication sector as well as the date of release. Press releases of Innovation Survey are published online at INSTAT's website.
10.2. Publications	The results of the Innovation survey can be found on the INSTAT website under

	the theme: Science, Technology and Innovation: Innovation.
10.3. On-line database	All the information is available in both Albanian and English language. The data on Innovation are located in the statistical database, but detailed data can be found in Excel format where the main indicators are detailed by economic activity and enterprise size. These tables can be found at the following link: statistical database.
10.4. Micro – data access	Databases at micro level for Innovation Survey are not published due to confidentiality reasons. Aggregated data is the only type of data that is provided to external users. Even the micro data are not published they can be accessed based on the article 34 of Law No. 17/2018, "On official statistics".
10.5. Other	Users can submit specific requests for "Innovation survey" data through a dedicated section: Data Request.
10.6. Documentation on methodology	A short explanation related to the definitions of the main concepts and methodological explanations are provided to users in the end of press releases and publications. Additional support information is given to internal users when needed or required. Also the Methodological on Innovation Survey notes are published at INSTAT's website.
10.7. Quality documentation	Sector of Research and Development, Innovation, Information Technology and Transport Statistics documents all the work process and procedure for the Innovation Survey for internal purposes.
11. Quality managment	
11.1. Quality assurance	INSTAT is committed to ensure the highest quality with respect to the compilation of statistical information. In accordance with the Statistics Law, INSTAT use statistical methods and processes in compliance with internationally recognized scientific principles and standards conduct ongoing analyses of the statistics with a view to quality improvements and ensure that statistics are as up to-date. In performing its tasks, it follows the general principles of quality management from the European Statistics Code of Practice. INSTAT declares that it takes into account the following principles: impartiality, quality of processes and products, user orientation, employee orientation, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents. Quality controls and validation of data are actions carried out throughout the process. The staffs is involved in different stages of index calculation, such as the data collection, data control, data input and other necessary control are all well trained. This helps the staff to know the enterprises and their responsibilities and keep an updated collaboration.
11.2. Quality assessments	Data on **Innovation Activities in enterprises** are compared with data collected two years prior to determine whether there is data consistency or if significant changes have occurred.

12. Relevance	
12.1. User needs	Users of Innovation Survey are classified as external and internal. External users are: • Public administration institutions; • Universities; • National and international NGOs; • Businesses; • Researchers, students and other similar groups. Internal users, means other sectors within INSTAT which use Innovation in enterprises results as input into their work.
12.2. User satisfaction	INSTAT analyzes page views every year and clicks about "Innovation" in 2023 are 1,295. INSTAT conducts an annual survey to measure User Satisfaction. The 2023 survey results show that the overall quality of the topic "Innovation" was rated 4.04 (80.8%) on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good).
Completeness	Completeness of Innovation Survey is judged by comparing the quality and quantity of indicators covered by INSTAT with those of the regulations followed. The degree of completeness of the data for Innovation survey is 100%.
13. Accuracy and reliability	
13.1. Overall accuracy	In general, data is checked against previous years to identify any significant changes in data trends. In cases where changes are detected, survey data is cross-verified with financial statements or administrative sources, if available. When no information is accessible from administrative sources, INSTAT corrects or confirms the data by emailing or calling respondents. Each year, INSTAT takes the following measures to improve response rates or reduce the impact of non-responses: • Data is collected directly from the enterprise; • Information is gathered through direct interviews conducted by surveyors, based on specific guidelines prepared for this purpose; • Survey staff are trained on ethical approaches to respondents who refuse to participate; • Due to the lack of an address system, it is often challenging for surveyors to locate businesses. Therefore, INSTAT staff contact the responsible person via email or phone to obtain more details on the location, as well as the date and time of the appointment; • Priority is given to large businesses. If these enterprises refuse to respond to surveyors, a formal request is sent to the company president, signed by INSTAT's General Director;

	• A formal request is also sent to other enterprises that agree to respond only if officially requested; • Enterprises are invited to contact INSTAT's central offices for any questions, and a qualified staff member is always available to address their inquiries.
13.2. Sampling error	Sampling error indicators are calculated for key indicators, which you may find on Table A1 in Annex. All indicator values are weighted to represent the population.
13.3. Non - sampling error	**Unit non-response** takes in consideration enterprises that are unable or unwilling to give the answers or when interviewers are unable to find the enterprises address, or when other barriers exist to complete the interview. Unit non-response rate for innovation survey 2020-2022 is 12.7%. **Item non-response rate** for the variable "Turnover of innovation active enterprises" is 0.0%. **Over-coverage** is possible when a unit is registered in the activity under observation, but it actually performs some other activity, which is not the subject of observation or the enterprise's status has changed, it's not active anymore. Over coverage rate for innovation survey 2020-2022 is 1.74%.

14. Timeliness and punctuality

14.1. Timeliness	Results of Innovation Survey are published on INSTAT website 179 days after the end of the reference period (T+ 179 days). The reference period of the results of Innovation Survey 2023 is December 31st, 2023.

Reference period	12/31/2023
Date of publication	6/27/2024
Timeliness	179

14.2. Punctuality	The data of the Innovation Survey are disseminated according to the publication calendar. The publication of Innovation Survey has been punctual in time to the extent of 100%.

Reference period	12/31/2023
Date of announcement	6/27/2024
Date of publication	6/27/2024
Time lag	0

15. Coherence and comparability

15.1. Comparability - geographical	The Innovation Survey data covers the entire territory of the country. The results produced by INSTAT are adapted to the Eurostat methodology. To ensure comparability across all countries, Eurostat, in close cooperation with EU Member States and other countries, developed a standardized core questionnaire, accompanied by definitions and methodological recommendations

	that have been approved by all countries and are fully aligned with the definitions in the methodological manual, the Oslo Manual.
15.2. Comparability - over time	Statistical information has been collected in the same way since 2015. The questionnaire used for this survey aligns with those used by Member States for the reference period. Starting from 2020 onward, data will be published regularly.
15.3. Coherence - cross domain	Not applicable.
15.4. Coherence - internal	The internal consistency of data is checked before finalization. The relationships between variables are examined, and coherence among different internal data series is confirmed.
16. Cost and burden	Personnel working for Innovation Survey are: 1 employee in Central Office, 11 Staff in Regional Offices, 44 enumerators, 3 Controllers and 1 IT staff.
17. Data revision	
17.1. Data revision - policy	Revision policy of Innovation Survey is done in accordance with general revision policy and errors treatment policy introduced by INSTAT in the links below: • Revision Policy; • Errors Treatment Policy.
17.2. Data revision - practise	Innovation Survey data are revised when: • A new classification of activities is implemented; • There are methodological differences; • Revision of weights (new and/or improved data sources, corrections of errors).
18. Statistical processing	
18.1. Source data	Data on innovation are based on survey. Frame population for innovation 2023 contains 3,793 enterprises. The sample size selected is 1,663 enterprises of all legal forms and types of ownership, with 10 and more employed, from which respondents were 1,426 enterprises.
18.2. Frequency of data collection	The frequency of the survey is biennial.
18.3. Data collection	Innovation data is collected through direct interviews using tablets by surveyors at selected enterprises. Alongside the data collected from the survey, the Research, Development, Innovation, Information Technology, and Transport Statistics sector analyzes and utilizes data from past Innovation surveys in enterprises. The necessary programs and procedures for manual data entry are prepared before data

	collection begins. These procedures and programs are tested in advance, and any necessary adjustments are made. All data is integrated into a single database once data entry and verification are complete.

Before conducting the survey, key users are consulted about any additional questions they may need in the questionnaire. Based on the outcomes of these consultations, the final questionnaire design is made, with minimal changes over the years.

A crucial phase in preparation for data collection is the preparation of all necessary materials and data entry and processing programs. The enterprises to be interviewed must be selected, along with the required number of surveyors. During training, surveyors receive essential materials such as the questionnaire guide, surveyor duties, lists of economic activities and products, notification letters for businesses, etc. All information reported by enterprises is recorded during the data collection process. In cases of ambiguity, the enterprise is re-contacted. If there is no response, an official letter signed by the Head of the Institution is sent to the enterprise. |
| 18.4. Data validation | As regards the level of data, the data editing procedures can broadly be divided into data editing at micro level. In data editing at micro level procedures are implemented at the level of individual units, i.e. at the level of micro data.

1. **Data editing in questionnaire**.

Control of incoming questionnaires, Completeness checks, valid values checks, range checks, logical control of the questionnaire. The controller staffs have the program to check the mathematical control of the questionnaire. The number of incoming questionnaires should be equal with the number of distributed questionnaires in the prefectures.

Individual checks are done for the cases of refusal and no contacts (response indicator).

The answered active enterprises are checked for coherence of data given in different sessions of questionnaire.

Checking economic activity and identification sessions.

2. Controlling the coherence of data with the administrative sources.

3. An appropriate weight is calculated for each unit that reported its data. This weight is calculated for various reasons: unequal probability of selection, nonresponse, adjustment to population values, model estimation. Outlier treatment is taken into consideration at the weighting procedure. |
| 18.5. Data compilation | For compiling the results, we have two basic procedures:

1. **Data Quality Analysis**
    To analyze data quality, several rules are applied:
    ○   Mathematical validation of the survey – Logical checks on survey data;
    ○   Comparison of data in time series – Comparing data with other files |

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Comparison of data with balance sheet files;
Establishing limits for certain ratios, such as average wages per employee, margins on net sales, etc.;
Analysis of large deviations from the average.

2. **Handling Non-Responses**
All cases are considered as non-responses if they involve:

No contact;
Complete refusal;
Partial refusals (for specific tables or indicators).

For handling partial non-responses, various direct methods or a combination of them were used, such as:

Studying the time series of the enterprise and sector;
Data from the balance sheet file;
Other files available at INSTAT;
Analyzing and using the average data of the sector the enterprise belongs to;
Using data from enterprises with similar conditions;
For unaddressed parts, the re-weighting method is applied.

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18.6. Adjustment	Not applicable.
19. Comment	

Annex

Table A1. Estimates in percentage of the main indicators for the Innovation 2020- 2022 survey along with the respective accuracy indicators

Indicator	2020-2022	Coefficient of Variation %
Share of innovation-active enterprises	42.87	0.9
Persons employed in innovation-active enterprises	51.76	4.8
Share of enterprises that introduced a product innovation	25.65	1.4
Share of enterprises that introduced a business process innovation	36.30	1.3
Enterprises with at least one product innovation (goods or services) that was not previously available to the market ('new to the market')	43.17	1.4
Innovation active enterprises that carried any type of cooperation	29.98	1.0